



Department of Justice

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THREE INDICTED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING, MORTGAGE FRAUD

COLUMBUS – A federal grand jury here has indicted three Columbus-area residents for trafficking marijuana, cocaine and crack cocaine and for using the money from the crime to buy a bar and commit mortgage fraud.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Jose Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Robert Fiatal, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, Franklin County Sheriff Jim Karnes, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, and Delaware County Sheriff Walter L. Davis, III, announced the indictment unsealed today when two of the defendants appeared in federal court.

Charged are

Shawn E. Pass, age 32, of Galena,
Thomas A. Mundell, age 29, of Columbus,
and Joy J. Freeman, age 31, of Lewis Center,

The 17-count indictment alleges that the defendants began the conspiracy in 1998 and that in 2004 Pass and Freeman bought a home in Galena using fraudulent documents to obtain the mortgage loan. The indictment alleges that the pair inflated their income in documents used to obtain the mortgage and instead used the proceeds of the drug trafficking to afford the mortgage payments.

The indictment also alleges that Pass used money from the sale of the drugs to buy a Columbus bar named Obvious Night Life or Club Obvious in 2003 and claimed that the source of the money was his step-father's lottery winnings.

Pass is named in 15 of the counts, including one count of conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine, five grams of crack cocaine and marijuana, punishable by at least ten years and up to life imprisonment. In addition, the grand jury charges Pass with three counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering and five counts of cocaine trafficking, each punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment. Pass also faces one count of managing a facility used to distribute cocaine, punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment, one count of distribution of crack cocaine punishable by five to 40 years imprisonment, and one count of marijuana trafficking punishable by up to five years imprisonment.

The indictment names Mundell in the conspiracy count and the crack cocaine distribution count, as well as charging him with one count of cocaine trafficking and two counts of operation of a facility used to distribute cocaine, each punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment.

Freeman is charged with three counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering and one count of managing a facility used to distribute cocaine. Each is punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment.

Freeman was arrested on May 29 and released on her own recognizance. Pass and Mundell surrendered to the U.S. Marshals Service.

Lockhart commended the joint investigation by agents operating as part of the Ohio HIDTA Task Force.

An indictment is merely an accusation. All defendants are presumed innocent until and unless convicted in court.

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